

11/05/2021

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Ely Cyrus, I am writing a letter to express my interest in regards to the vacancy on the Marijuana Control Board, specifically the open Rural Public seat. I live and work in Kiana, a community within the Northwest Arctic Borough.

I am interested in serving on this board because of the parallels it has in relation to current and past alcohol regulation in our state. Growing up in a rural community, which until very recently was subject to a local option ban on Alcohol, helps me to understand the importance of regulating a controlled substance and ensuring there is proper oversight in its use.

Throughout my youth, alcohol was illegal to possess or purchase in our community yet it was still present. I applaud the state and voters for taking steps to realize that banning a substance such as Marijuana does not simply make it go away.

I do not use or consume any marijuana products but I recognize the importance of regulating the industry. I do not believe this industry can be self-regulated at this time, and the State's involvement is crucial to help grow it within our state. The industry has proven it provides a growing market for job opportunities as well as new tax opportunities for state and local governments.

I would like to be a part of the process that ensures companies and organizations involved in manufacturing and dispensing of these products do so in a safe and consistent manner. I believe with proper oversight and compliance with state regulations will help to ensure safety for residents in rural communities and statewide who choose to use these products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ely Cyrus', written in a cursive style.

Ely Cyrus